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1603 Orrington Avenue/Suite 2000
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Telephone 847 - 905 - 7111
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To: EXAMINER NGUYEN, TUNG X.
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Fax #: (571) 273-8300

From: FRANK C. NICHOLAS
Phone #: (847) 424-2521

Client/Matter No.: GP-302957 (2750/30)

of Pages: 19

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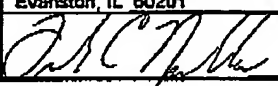

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TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Attorney Docket No.	GP-302957 (2750/30)
	Application Number	10/601,457
	Filing Date	JUNE 23, 2003
	First Named Inventor	BRIAN A. WIMS
	Group Art Unit	2829
	Examiner	NGUYEN, TUNG X

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
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Indep		Minus		0	x \$100=	0	x \$200=	
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim					+ \$180=	—	+ \$360=	
					total add'l fee	\$ 0	total add'l fee	\$ 0

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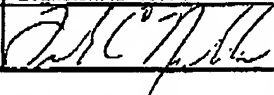
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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Attorney Docket No	GP-302957 (2750/30)
	Application Number	10/601,467
	Filing Date	JUNE 23, 2003
	First Named Inventor	BRIAN A. WIMS
	Group Art Unit	2820
	Examiner	NGUYEN, TUNG X

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PATENT
Case No. GP-302957
(2750/30)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADE MARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re patent application of:

BRIAN A. WIMS, ET AL.

Serial No.: 10/601,467

Filed: JUNE 23, 2003

For: SYSTEM BENCH WIRELESS
MAPPING BOARD

Examiner: NGUYEN, TUNG X.

Group Art Unit: 2829

Conf. No.: 7224

SUPPLEMENTAL APPEAL BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22202-1450

Dear Sir:

Appellants respectfully present their Brief on Appeal as follows:

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1. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Assignee General Motors Corporation, a corporation having an office and a place of business at 300 Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan, 48265-3000.

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2. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant and the undersigned attorneys are not aware of any appeals or any interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or having a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

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3. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 are currently pending in the application and are the claims on appeal.

Claims 1- 12 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Cook, United States Patent 4,771,234 ("Cook"). See, the Appendix.

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4. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

All previously filed amendments have been entered in the application.

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5. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

A system for testing electronic modules includes at least one mapping board box 580 including at least one harness port 590 and at least one harness 670 operably connected at one end to the at least one harness port. The mapping board box includes a plurality of pin receptors in electronic communication with the at least one harness port. The pin receptors are adapted to communicate with a circuit printed on a circuit board with pins. The mapping board box is pre-wired to receive circuit boards with a variety of pin configurations. See, e.g. FIG. 5 and page 5, lines 13-25, *inter alia*.

A method of testing an electronic module includes pinning a circuit board corresponding to an electronic module 720 and inserting the pinned circuit board into a pre-wired mapping board box 730. See, FIG. 7 and page 7, line 15 to page 8 line 7, *inter alia*.

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6. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Are claims 1-12 anticipated by Cook under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)?

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7. ARGUMENTS

In response to Appellants' appeal brief, the Examiner issued a new office action, alleging a new ground of rejection. However, substantively, there is no new ground of rejection, and Appellants therefore elect to maintain their appeal. Additionally, Appellants note the impropriety of the Examiner's attempt to reopen prosecution without a new ground of rejection. The CFR allows and Examiner to reopen prosecution only to assert a new ground of rejection – without a truly new ground of rejection, the Examiner's actions in this matter are improper.

Specifically, the Examiner has altered a §103(a) rejection over Admitted Prior Art in view of Cook to a §102(b) rejection of Cook. However, the substance of the rejection is identical, and Appellant argues substantially the same arguments. Appellants maintain their traversal of all rejections.

A. Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Cook.

In order to anticipate claims 1-7 and 10, Cook must disclose each and every element of the claims in as great detail as claimed. Since Cook does not disclose (or teach) each and every element, the rejection must fall. Specifically, Cook does not disclose “the mapping board box including a plurality of pin receptors in electronic communication with the at least one harness port, the pin receptors adapted to communicate with a circuit printed on a circuit board with pins, wherein the mapping board box is pre-wired to receive circuit boards with a variety of pin configurations” as claimed in claim 1.

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The Examiner's allegation (page 4 of the October 25, 2005 office action) that

It is noted that the term "mapping board box" is a broad term, therefore the "Fixture base" (500 of figures 1-2) is qualified as "mapping board box".

is entirely irrelevant. In order to anticipate the claims, Cook must disclose that the mapping board box include a plurality of pin receptors *in electronic communication with the at least one harness port* – which, as previously outlined is not disclosed by Cook. The breadth of the term "mapping board box", be the term broad or narrow, does not recite each limitation of the claims.

The Examiner erroneously equates the "holes of 501" to the claimed "plurality of pin receptors in electronic communication with the at least one harness port" as claimed in claim 1. Such a rejection cannot stand – those of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a hole cannot be in electronic communication with a harness port. Indeed, a hole cannot be in electronic communication with anything, as a hole is exactly that – a hole.

The function of the holes of 501 taught by Cook is entirely different than the function of the claimed "plurality of pin receptors in electronic communication with the at least one harness port". Alignment between the fixture base 500, support assembly 501 and the circuit card 105 is maintained by the tooling pins 106. See, Cook column 4, lines 1-4. In contrast the claimed "plurality of pin receptors in electronic communication with the at least one harness port" serve to provide electronic communication between the harness port and the pins. See, page 6, lines 1-13, *inter alia*.

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Similarly, claim 1 requires that the pin receptors are adapted to communicate with a circuit printed on a circuit board with pins. A hole *cannot* be in electronic communication with a harness port, and a hole *cannot* be in communication with a circuit printed on a circuit board.

The Examiner attempts to liken the claimed "mapping board box" with structures 500 and 501 from FIG. 1 of Cook. In order to operate, Cook relies on a vacuum actuated test fixture. A fixture base 500 is described as a "first assembly" and the support assembly 501 is described as a "second assembly". See, Cook, column 3, lines 59-66. Operation relies on first seal 102, second seal 109 and third seal 104. Cook, column 4, lines 11-13. Furthermore, operation of Cook is premised on a vacuum generated by a manifold 108 that removes air from the vacuum chamber of the plate assembly 101. Cook, column 4, lines 34-49. Furthermore, Cook teaches the necessity of the vacuum by teaching that the "plate assembly 101 must be structurally rigid to support the circuit card and the bending forces caused when the vacuum is applied." Cook, column 4, lines 50-52. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art could not have a reasonable expectation of success by removing the vacuum system to arrive at the Examiner's proposed modification. See, e.g. MPEP §2143.02.

If the holes of 501 were changed so that the mapping board box is pre-wired to receive circuit boards with a variety of pin configurations, such a change would destroy the vacuum required for operation of Cook. Without the vacuum, Cook would fail to function.

Claims 2-7, 10, and 12 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over the prior art for at least the same reasons.

Therefore, claims 1-7, 10 and 12 are patentable over the references.

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With respect to the rejections to claims 8, 9, and 11, Cook does not disclose a "mapping board box", as claimed in claims 8, 9 and 11, and therefore this rejection must fall. The differences between the claimed mapping board box, and the combination of the support assembly 501 and fixture base 500 are outlined above.

Claim 11 requires "means for receiving a circuit board." As claim 11 is a §112 paragraph 6 claim, Appellants are entitled to the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim in light of the specification. Because the specification describes the "means for receiving a circuit board" as a "mapping board box," Cook can not disclose the claimed "means for receiving a circuit board." Cook teaches the necessity to use a vacuum to operate the test fixture (see the title: "Vacuum Actuated Test Fixture"). Since the specification does not illustrate a vacuum, Cook cannot be held to describe the claimed means for receiving a circuit board of claim 11.

Because Cook does not disclose a "mapping board box" as claimed in claims 8-9, and 11, Appellants request withdrawal of the rejections to claims 8-9 and 11.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejections to claims 1-12 is requested.

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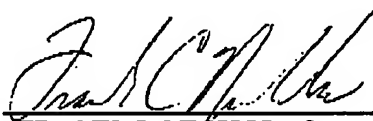
CONCLUSION

The Examiner's rejections have been obviated by the above remarks. Appellants respectfully submit that claims 1-12 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing remarks, favorable consideration and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Dated: NOVEMBER 15, 2005

Respectfully submitted,
BRIAN A. WIMS, ET. AL.

CARDINAL LAW GROUP
Suite 2000
1603 Orrington Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201
Phone: (847) 905-7111
Fax: (847) 905-7113



FRANK C. NICHOLAS
Registration No. 33,983
Attorney for Appellant

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A system for testing electronic modules comprising:
at least one mapping board box including at least one harness port;
at least one harness operably connected at one end to the at least one harness port,
the mapping board box including a plurality of pin receptors in electronic
communication with the at least one harness port, the pin receptors adapted to communicate with
a circuit printed on a circuit board with pins, wherein the mapping board box is pre-wired to
receive circuit boards with a variety of pin configurations.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the dimensions of the at least one mapping board
box are sized to fit a printed circuit board.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one harness port comprises 56 pins.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one mapping board box comprises 560
pin receptors.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one harness comprises a generic
harness.

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6. The system of claim 5 wherein the generic harness comprises 56 wires.
7. The system of claim 1 further comprising an electronic simulator.
8. A method of testing an electronic module, the method comprising pinning a circuit board corresponding to an electronic module; and inserting the pinned circuit board into a pre-wired mapping board box.
9. The method of claim 8, the method further comprising receiving the pinned portion of the board into connection ports in a mapping board box.
10. The method of claim 9, the method further comprising communicating between a circuit and the module via the mapping board box and a harness connection.
11. A system for testing an electronic module comprising:
means for receiving a circuit board;
means for communicating between the circuit board receiving means and an electronic module.
12. The method of claim 8 wherein the mapping board box includes a plurality of pin receptors in electronic communication with the at least one harness port, the pin receptors adapted to communicate with a circuit printed on a circuit board with pins.

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EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.